

Meeting October 22, 2012

The meeting of Mount Pleasant Borough Council was called to order by President Bauer at 7:02pm in Council Chambers at 1 Etze Avenue, Mount Pleasant, PA 15666. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and there was a moment of silence for our deployed troops. President Bauer directed Borough Manager Landy to take roll. Councilman McCloy, McFeaters, Pritts, Snyder, Tate and Councilwomen Bailey, Ruszkowski and Stevenson were present. Mayor Lucia and Solicitor Wolfe were absent. President Bauer stated we have a quorum. Councilman Snyder left the meeting at 8:44pm.

Reading of the Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 1, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

Public Comment:

James Villinger, 210 Warden Street Mount Pleasant PA 15666 spoke to Council as a concerned parent who would like to see the curfew ordinance enforced with specific standards for the police to follow. Mr. Villinger stated that he feels income from curfew fines should go toward funding cameras in our parks and problem areas. Mr. Villinger said he has researched grants to help with the cost of installing these cameras. One grant is for up to \$50,000. This grant is called the Municipal Assistance Program Grant through the DCED. All monies from the grant must be split equally with our neighboring municipality. The Borough and the Township would have to supply matching funds. Mr. Villinger feels that the Borough should take advantage of this grant to help the Mount Pleasant Police Department and the State Police.

Mayor's Report: None

Solicitor's Report: None

Treasurer's Report:

Borough Manager Landy read the following Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2012:

Mt. Pleasant Borough Treasurer's Report

Sep-12

		Previous Balance	Deposits	Disbursements	Balance 2012
General Fund Checking	PNC 00-0122-3513	50,000.00	227,202.64	223,885.64	53,317.00
General Fund Sweep	PNC 10-1149-3394	668,228.02	130,517.89	84,238.39	714,507.52
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	PNC 102-457-4388	63,275.06	3.88	19,946.25	43,332.69
**Fire	30,000.00				
**Police	0.00				
**Streets	10,000.00				
**Contingency Fund	3,332.42				
General Fund Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 321615	404,515.62	66.50	0.00	404,582.12
**Police	60,000.00				
**Streets	80,000.00				
**Contingency Fund	96,388.91				
**Infrastructure	90,000.00				
**BOMP1 Gas Well	9,250.00				
**BOMP2 Gas Well	4,572.81				
**Frick Park Gas Well	19,423.96				
**Levins	4,365.06				
**Surveillance Cameras	9,000.00				
**Surveillance Camera Grant	10,000.00				
**Early Warning Siren Grant	3,000.00				
**Fire	10,000.00				
**K-9	8,581.38				
Escrow Account	PNC Bank 10-2912-6867	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Liquid Fuels PLGIT	PLGIT 56980126	89,908.59	0.83	39,614.53	50,294.89
Monument CD	Standard Bank 328188	6,023.34	0.00	0.00	6,023.34
Holiday Lighting Fund	Standard Bank 050004849	1,801.54	0.08	0.00	1,801.62
Payroll Fund	PNC 00-0122-6415	1,643.60	51,425.54	51,558.10	1,511.04
Veterans Park Fund	First Niagara 981293700	3,512.84	50.00	340.99	3,221.85
Veterans Park Fund	PLGIT 5698025	11,261.71	0.14	0.00	11,261.85
Police Drug Enforcement	PNC 10-1291-2642	850.50	0.00	849.99	0.51
Town Clock Fund	Standard Bank 0010038847	613.19	0.02	0.00	613.21
Medic 10 Checking	Standard Bank 0010107643	82,606.70	15,831.87	26,288.62	72,149.95
Medic 10 Savings	Standard Bank 0310000238	123,657.18	1,020.49	0.00	124,677.67
Storm Water Retrofit Phase II	PNC Bank 10-3388-4556	11,216.22	0.00	0.00	11,216.22
Total General Fund Balance					1,501,011.48

WWT Operational Acct	Standard Bank 0320012280	285,323.85	30,591.20	39,790.07	276,124.98
WWT Savings	Standard Bank 0050021008	66,802.52	1,515.16	0.00	68,317.68
WWT Budgetary Reserve	Standard Bank 0000287245	147,930.43	24.32	0.00	147,954.75
**Contingency		87,930.43			
**Infrastructure		60,000.00			
Total WWT Balance					492,397.41
Total Borough funds					1,993,408.89

Respectfully Submitted:
 Councilwoman Susan Ruskowski
 Secretary Beverly Fedorchak

Councilwoman Stevenson asked what the money from the Police Drug Enforcement account was spent on and Patrolman Dan Zilli said that night-vision binoculars were purchased.

A motion as made by Councilman Tate to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Motion seconded by Councilman Snyder. Motion carried 9-0.

President's Report:

President Bauer said that meetings were held with the Police Department to discuss the Police Contract, and other meetings were held with Human Resources concerning other issues.

President Bauer said he received an email from Mr. Kraisinger on Quarry Street concerning the sump pump at his neighbor's property that he says is discharging water onto his property. President Bauer said he has driven past the property several times and has not seen any water. President Bauer said that there are other sump pumps in the Borough that need to be addressed before the winter months.

Borough Manager Landy said that Council received an email regarding numerous traffic accidents at the intersection of Braddock Road Avenue and Church Street. The email suggested making Shady Street one-way going down the hill. Councilman Tate said that Shady Street is not in the Borough. President Bauer said that the Public Safety Committee will look at the intersection again to see if the Borough could do anything.

President Bauer said that he agrees with Mr. Villinger that there is a problem in our parks and he has spoken to council members about changing the Parks Ordinance to state that at dusk the parks in the Borough are closed and the fine for being in the park after dusk should be substantial enough to be a deterrent. President Bauer said that the exception should be people who use the walking track at Frick Park. Councilman Snyder said that he feels the first thing that should be done is to install more lights at Jack Bobb's and Satcho Parks so that the police and neighbors can see if people are in the park after dusk. President Bauer said that putting more lights at Satcho Park could cost as much as \$50,000 because there is no power down there. Council agreed that a neighborhood watch would also help a great deal. A discussion ensued on various problems if the parks are closed at dusk. Council agreed that there should be cameras in the parks. Borough Manager Landy said that there is money in budgetary reserve from grant funds for cameras, but it will be difficult to cover the parks 100%. Council discussed moving the server for the surveillance cameras down to the police station.

Councilman Tate replied to the issue of water on the Kraisinger property from the Shumar sump pump and said that he also has ridden by the properties numerous times and sees no water problem, even after a heavy rain. Councilman Tate said that he and Borough Manager Landy looked at the properties and feel that the water is running along the curb as it should. The Kraisingers want the Shumars to reroute their sump pump discharge and the Shumars stated that if they do that it would void the warranty from the manufacturer. Council discussed different ways to handle sump pumps.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson for an Executive Session. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Executive Session 7:35pm to 7:48pm.

President Bauer stated that the Executive Session was held to discuss employee contracts.

Borough Manager's Report:

Borough Manager Landy said that the Gingerbread Competition is moving forward. The competition will help businesses and the Borough during the Christmas Season as well as the Wounded Warrior Project. Anyone who wants to participate in the competition can find all of the information on the borough web-site at www.mtpleasantboro.com.

Mr. Landy said he will attend a seminar tomorrow morning on interactive marketing by the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau. There will be another seminar on the same subject on November 7, 2012 in Latrobe.

Mr. Landy reported that Lisa Ballew who was hired as a part-time secretary for the Borough has decided not to take the job due to unforeseen circumstances. The Borough will look at filling the position some time in 2013.

Mr. Landy reported that this month the topic of the Safety Committee meeting was investigating accidents. A member from each borough department attends the safety meeting. There were no accidents to report.

Mr. Landy said that there will be adjustments to the rent for some of the suites in the Municipal Building. Each year adjustments are made to bring the cost per square foot into line.

Borough Manager Landy said that Council has copies of the proposed 2013 budgets. Mr. Landy went over some of the changes to the budgets this year. This is a preliminary budget and some numbers are not in yet, but approximate adjustments were made until the final number is received. Some of the points Mr. Landy made regarding the General Fund are as follows:

- Property Tax income has decreased by \$4,000 due to reassessments.
- The number for Mechanical Device income was changed to a more realistic number because some of the establishments are removing the machines.
- There is a new income line item for the Marcellus Impact Fee which comes from the DCED and is the Borough's share of the gas well impact fees.
- There is \$1,000 in the Fireworks line item and Council will have to discuss ways to raise the rest of the money needed.
- Mr. Landy said he feels income from parking tickets and meter receipts should be higher and we should work to increase those revenues.
- Council was supplied with a report on gas well income and it shows that it will not be significant income in 2013.
- Some changes were made under Building Regulations. The Borough made changes to the ordinances governing zoning appeals and the planning commission which means that the Borough will no longer have to pay those fees.
- Property Maintenance expense was raised.
- Tree trimming expense was raised in order to take action at Frick Park.
- Health Officer expense was raised to pay to have Rita Borenstein enforce some of the Property Maintenance ordinances.
- A new expense item is the Video Wall License. This will be a yearly expense for the software license. The fee will be \$750 per year and in 2013 we will have to pay for 2012 and 2013.
- An adjustment was made to the Library Contribution.
- The Bridgeport Street Property line item was increased so that we can move forward with developing the property with matching grant funds.
- The donation to the Cat Committee was eliminated in 2013 and the donation to the Historical Society was greatly reduced.

Changes to the WWT Budget are as follows:

- Income from sewage billing has decreased because people are using less water. This has been a trend for the last six years.
- Income from the Township is also decreasing for the same reason.
- The electric expense has been reduced because of improvements made at the plant.
- The 2013 WWT Budget currently shows an \$8,000 loss and Mr. Landy will work with Superintendent Norm Stout to balance the budget.

Changes to the Liquid Fuels Budget are as follows:

- The carry-over money in 2013 will be less because of the paving projects done in 2012.
- The budget reflects a \$4,000 decrease in Liquid Fuels income from the state.
- The expense line item for Paving/Tar & Chip was lowered to reflect the loss in revenue. If the Borough does more sealing of the roads there may be enough carry-over for a paving project in 2014.
- Salt usage will have to be looked at.

Mr. Landy said that Council was all given a copy of the updated Borough Code.

Mr. Landy met with Shop Demo Depot who met with Levin Furniture and will meet with other businesses in the Borough regarding tax credits. This could mean up to \$30,000 more income for the Borough.

Mr. Landy reported that the electrical system at Frick Park has been upgraded for the first time in 30 years. It is now up to code and safe.

Mr. Landy said there is an issue with PNC Bank charging fees for our General Fund accounts. These fees were approximately \$200 for the last two months. Mr. Landy said he is trying to work with the bank, but if they will not waive these fees we may have to switch to a bank that does not charge these fees.

Waste Water Treatment Report:

President Bauer said that before tonight's meeting Council met at the WWT Plant and Superintendent Stout brought them up to date on projects at the plant. The Quarry Street Project should begin in the spring.

Streets Report:

Councilman Tate said that the wall in the alley at Frick Park is being pushed out by roots from the trees that are there. The Street Department will be able to repair the wall by putting in cement barriers like they did at Willows Park. The trees are also lifting the cement sections on the walking track. President Bauer said that every time experts are consulted regarding what to do with the trees that are pushing out the wall, the experts say remove the trees. A discussion ensued about what method to use to remove the trees.

Public Safety Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Snyder to authorize Borough Manager to sign the agreement with Hoffman Kennels for the year 2013. Motion seconded by Councilman McCloy. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman Snyder said that there will be a seminar about awareness of the pre-winter preparations on November 7, 2012 for public works directors, street and road crews and municipal officials. The cost is \$50 for each person attending the seminar. Council agreed that Jeff McGuinness from the Street Department should attend.

Councilman Snyder reported that Trick or Treat in the Borough will be Sunday October 28th from 2pm to 4pm and the Halloween Parade will be on Wednesday October 31st at 7pm. Councilman Snyder asked property owners to keep their outside lights on to light up the area as a way to keep the kids safe.

Zoning & Ordinance Report:

Councilman McCloy said that Solicitor Wolfe is working on amendments to borough ordinances and should have them ready to review and advertise at the next council meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman McCloy to approve Resolution 2012-11 amending certain fees for the Borough of Mount Pleasant. Motion seconded by Councilman Pritts. Motion carried 9-0.

Councilman McCloy said he spoke to Ms. Rita Borenstein, Health Officer, regarding some properties in the Borough. Many issues have been resolved and Ms. Borenstein will continue to work on the others.

Community & Economic Development/Grants Report:

Councilwoman Bailey said that she and Mr. Landy worked on the CDBG Grant and it should be ready to be mailed by Tuesday or Wednesday of this week. It is due at the courthouse by Friday. Councilwoman Bailey said she and Mr. Landy are also looking into some EPA Grants to see if we may qualify.

Veterans Park Report:

Councilman Tate said he will meet with Shoemaker Memorials sometime this week about installing the base for the video wall. Mr. Landy said that the software is very close to being completed. Councilman Pritts asked if internet access will be required.

Parks & Recreation Report:

Councilman McFeaters reported that he attended the recent Coal & Coke Trail Meeting. The committee will be holding a Comedy Night on November 10th to raise funds for the trail from 6pm to 9:30pm at the Scottdale Firemen's Club featuring three professional comedians and dinner catered by Leo & Sons Grille 3. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available at the Village Restaurant, Miss Martha's Tearoom, Grille 31 and Standard Bank in Mount Pleasant and Scottdale.

Councilman McFeaters asked to have advance notice of any votes on legislation. Councilman McFeaters said that after reviewing the current HB2555 Legislation he found that it really didn't have anything to do with rental inspections or tenant registration. President Bauer replied that the Bill has to do with landlord registration of rental properties and Council voted on sending a letter of support for the Bill. Councilman McFeaters said that he would like more time to prepare for a vote of that nature. Councilman McFeaters said that he feels the Bill is a hidden tax on landlords.

Councilman McFeaters said that repairs are completed on the walkway at Frick Park and it looks very nice.

Finance & Human Resources Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ruskowski to approve Resolution 2012-12 confirming quarterly pension contributions as \$2.90 per hour worked by a member for calendar year 2012 only. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bailey. Motion carried 8-0.

Property Report:

Councilman Pritts said that the brick for the Welcome to Mount Pleasant sign have been purchased and as soon as the agreement for use of the property is signed we can start construction.

Councilman Pritts said that he has been talking with Martin Communications about cameras for the parks. Councilman Pritts said that we will only be able to afford two cameras for each park with the amount of money we have and that will not give too much coverage but it's a start. Councilman Pritts said there are issues with installing the cameras in the parks such as enclosures for the cameras and available electricity and that will determine the cost.

Sanitation & Recycling Report: None

Communications Report:

Councilwoman Stevenson said that she is working on some internal communications with Council regarding outlining the changes in the Borough Code so that everyone is aware of the changes.

New Business:

Councilwoman Bailey reported that she attended the Library Board meeting and received financial reports for 2009 and 2010. Councilwoman Bailey said that board members asked when they would receive their yearly contribution from the Borough and she told them that they would receive the contribution after they have given Council a copy of their by-laws a financial statement for 2011. Board members said that the by-laws and the 2011 financial statement will be ready for the next Library Board meeting in November. The ordinance states that the Borough must give the Library the contribution by the end of December. Councilman McCloy said that the ordinance will be amended to require yearly financial statements before the money is given to the Library. Councilwoman Bailey said she will ask for the last audit.

Council discussed the ownership of the land and the library building. Councilwoman Bailey said that the financial statement she received states that the building is owned by Mount Pleasant Borough.

Councilwoman Stevenson said that there is an informal group of borough residents who are trying get a glass museum started in town and she will report any progress at future meetings. Councilwoman Stevenson said that it is not a Historical Society project.

Reading of Communications:

Borough Manager Landy read the following communications:

- There will be a meeting of the Westmoreland County Boroughs Association on October 25th at the barn on Donohue Road in Greensburg and the topic will be Marcellus Shale Updates.
- There have been three more tax assessment appeals filed with the county and every time property owners win an assessment appeal property taxes owed the Borough are reduced.

Discussion and Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to pay all approved and authorized bills. Motion seconded by Councilman Tate. Motion carried 8-0.

Miscellaneous and Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Pritts to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Stevenson. Motion carried 8-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:59pm

A motion was made by Councilwoman Stevenson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of October 1, 2012 since Council has been provided with a copy. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Ruszkowski. Motion carried 9-0.

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